

Message Text

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21

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NASA-01 NEA-09

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-03 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 FEA-01 /116 W
----- 031514

R 250611Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5133

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: HARM, IAEA, TECH, UK, US

SUBJECT: UK PROPOSAL FOR PNE COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 040679

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE WITH DFA FEB 25 EMBODYING POINTS IN REFTEL. AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE WAS NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGING. DISCUSSION MADE CLEAR WE HAVE BASIC DIFFERENCE WITH AUSTRALIANS ON PNE ISSUE. GOA SEES DEVELOPMENT OF PNE SERVICES AS PROMISING DEVICE FOR CONVINCING NON-NUCLEAR STATES THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT NECESSARY TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, USING INDIAN EXCUSE IT IS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. AUSTRALIANS CONSIDER THAT DELAY IN DEVELOPING PNE SERVICES WILL INCREASE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 6 OF REFTEL EMBOFF LEFT WITH DFA FEB 25 AIDE MEMOIRE INCORPORATING POINTS IN PARA 5 AND ASKING FOR AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED U.S. REVISIONS TO PARA 1(C) OF UK RES. AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT RPT NOT VERY ENCOURAGING, THOUGH DISCUSSION WAS CORDIAL

THROUGHOUT, WITH AUSTRALIANS MAKING POINTS EARNESTLY BUT IN FRIENDLY MANNER.

3. IN RESPONSE, TO AIDE MEMOIRE BROOK (ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE POLICY BRANCH, DFA) NOTED STRONG AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN PROMOTING PNE SERVICES AS MEANS OF DISSUADING NON-NUCLEAR STATES FROM DEVELOPING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. HE SAID THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT US AND SOVIETS COULD LONG MAINTAIN OLYMPIAN ATTITUDE THAT THEY KNOW BEST THE DETAILED PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PNE'S AND THAT ALL OTHER STATES SHOULD ACCEPT THEIR JUDGMENTS WITHOUT QUESTION. HE FELT THAT BEST WAY TO SHORE UP NPT WAS TO HOLD OUT TO NON-NUCLEAR STATES PROSPECT OF PNE SERVICES AND THUS HEAD OFF RECOURSE TO FURTHER PROLIFERATION USING INDIAN EXCUSE. MISS ILSE SVENNE, WHO HAS STUDIED PNE ISSUE AT SOME LENGTH IN DFA, JOINED DISCUSSION AND NOTED COMMITMENT IN ARTICLE V OF NPT TO DEVELOP ARRANGEMENTS FOR PNE'S. SHE NOTED THAT FIVE YEARS HAD PASSED WITHOUT ANY ACTION ON THIS COMMITMENT, AND SHE SUGGESTED THAT BEST WAY OF MAKING NON-NUCLEAR STATES AWARE OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PNE'S MIGHT WELL BE TO PROCEED TO AT LEAST ONE SUCH EXPLOSION AS MORE EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEMONSTRATING PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN SIMPLY APPEARING TO STALL ON ACTION IN THIS SPHERE.

4. EMBOFF NOTED SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR CONVEYING INSTRUCTIONS TO AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION AND NOTED CONDITIONAL NATURE OF OUR REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT (I.E., IF BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA DO NOT OBJECT). EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT U.S. REQUEST CONTAINED IN AIDE MEMOIRE BE SENT TO AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION IN VIENNA, NOTING THAT PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH IS EVIDENTLY INCOMPLETE AT THIS POINT. BROOK UNDER-TOOK TO CONSIDER THIS SUGGESTION BUT MADE NO RPT NO COMMITMENT.

5. COMMENT. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THAT AUSTRALIANS HAVE REAL DIFFERENCE WITH U.S. ON THIS ISSUE. GOA SEES PNE SERVICE AS MEANS OF HEADING OFF NON-NUCLEAR STATES FROM DEVELOPING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, USING INDIAN EXCUSE THAT IT IS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. U.S. CONCERN IS TO GO SLOWLY ON DEVELOPMENT OF PNE SERVICE SINCE NEITHER PNE TECHNOLOGY NOR REQUESTS FOR PNE SERVICES HAVE REACHED CONFIDENTIAL

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POINT WHERE PNE AGREEMENT REQUIRED. U.S. ALSO FEELS THAT ELABORATION OF PNE AGREEMENT COULD PREMATURELY STIMULATE REQUESTS FOR PNE SERVICES.

6. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED IN DETAIL OF U.S. DISCUSSION OF UK RESOLUTION WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN. THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO HAVE MUCH OF AN IMPACT ON GOA

WHEN WE MUST ENTER LATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS,
AS WAS CASE WITH REFTTEL.
HARROP

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